

Kashmir: Conflicts and Solution. Effects on India and the World.

Dr Umesh Kumar

Assistant Professor Swami Shraddhanand College University Of Delhi

Abstract: Kashmir. A word that brings both sorrow and joy to one's heart. Joy: it is one of the most beautiful states of India. Lying between two mountain ranges, Kashmir valley is a priceless gem. Sorrow: the growing conflict between India and her neighbours as they try to lay claim over this beautiful land. Pakistan wants parts of Kashmir, China wants parts of Ladakh. Since India gained independence, all ever done at the northern border was defending our land and protecting every inch of it.

After partition of India in 1947, both India and Pakistan placed their claim on the then princely state of Jammu and Kashmir as their own. The disagreement led to the war. Since then over 70 years have passed and the conflict is yet to be resolved. Kashmir, currently, is regarded as one of the most perilous regions on the planet. The countries, Pakistan and India, having fought 3 huge wars and 2 minor wars over Kashmir, haven't been able to claim it as a whole state. Noting the fact that both Pakistan and India are now nuclear powered countries, this war might end up being a threat to world security, hence it has gained a lot of international attention.

India and Pakistan have been engaged in a 'proxy war' over Kashmir since the early 1990s. The start of the proxy war has reduced diplomatic ties between the two countries to an all-time low, and has played a major role in South Asia's explicit nuclearization in 1998. It has further harmed regional unity chances and fuelled worries of a possible catastrophic nuclear confrontation between India and Pakistan. As a result, there has never been a greater pressing need to resolve the Kashmir conflict than now. This paper aims at understanding the conflict, the effects of it and solution to the conflict.

Keywords: India and Pakistan wars, Kashmir conflict, U N, Kashmir Valley

Introduction:

The Indian subcontinent's northern part is Kashmir. Until the mid-nineteenth century, "Kashmir" exclusively referred to the Valley of Kashmir, which was located between the Pir Panjal Range and the Great Himalayas. Today, the phrase refers to the Indian-run states of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir, the Pakistani-run Gilgit-Baltistan and Azad Kashmir, and the Chinese-run Trans-Karakoram Tract and Aksai Chin.

One way for resolving the issue is to involve a third party or use mediation. Mediation is a method of resolving disputes. The participation of the United Nations in the Kashmir dispute is crucial for conflict settlement (UN). Kashmiris have been oppressed as a result of the concentration of power. In any case, UN rulings bolstered the Kashmiri independence cause. However, it is also a fact that the UN has failed to put the finishing touches on its decisions in the Kashmir dispute.

Tension and worries of a significant armed conflict rising among the nuclear-armed neighbours Pakistan and India keep rising, owing to the increased danger of terrorist activities by Pakistan-based militant organisations and the current bloodshed occurring in Kashmir.

Objectives:

To understand the conflict and its history till date this paper will focus on the below:

1. To study the history of Kashmir division
2. To study the cause of conflict between India and Pakistan, Indo-Pak wars

3. To study the recent events in Kashmir
4. To assimilate possible solution to the conflict

History of Kashmir:

To understand the rise of conflict it is integral to look deep into the state's chronology in order to comprehend this war. Pakistan and India were on the verge of gaining freedom from the British in August 1947. The British partitioned the British India colony into India and Pakistan, overseen by Governor-General Mountbatten. The British India Colony was composed of princely states (states that were loyal to the British but were led by a king) as well as British-controlled nations. Princely states had the option of deciding if to submit to India or Pakistan at the partition of British India.

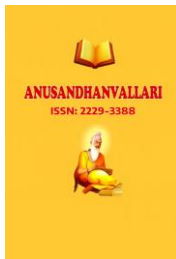
Generally, Muslim-majority states agreed to join Pakistan, whilst Hindu-majority states joined India, despite the fact that India is a secular country. Kashmir, on the other hand, was an outlier. While the bulk of the people was Muslim, Raja Hari Singh, the king, was Hindu ruler. Similar was the case of the state of Junagadh. The ruler, who was Muslim, wished to join Pakistan against the wishes of his people. Whereas it was a large state and fell under the area covered by states belonging to India. Soon outraged, India seized Junagadh under the premise that Pakistani Prime Minister Jinnah had said that Hindus and Muslims can not coexist in one country and that violence was a possibility.

When it came to the area of Kashmir, unfortunately, things seem to be going differently. Despite the fact that Kashmir was a Muslim majority state with a Hindu king, Mountbatten proposed that it be given to India. This has to do with the fact that India is a secular nation. Hari Singh, on the other hand, determined that Kashmir would operate independently, at least momentarily, since he was concerned that Kashmiri Muslims would've been unhappy within India, whereas Hindus and Sikhs would've been unhappy within Pakistan. While this era of uncertainty was in Kashmir, there were waves of riots against the regent in some areas.

Thus, Pakistani tribespeople and terrorist groups came to be in Kashmir, attempting to seize the capital, Srinagar, all the while ravaging and looting the region. King Hari Singh requested India to assist in safeguarding themselves and preventing the chaos, and in return, he would surrender the princely state to India. This didn't sit well with Pakistan and the first Indo-Pak war occurred.

The 1st War at Indo-Pak border, also referred to as the 1st War of Kashmir, was fought between Indian military forces and Pakistani tribal people in 1948. By the end of 1948, both parties had consolidated their positions in Kashmir. A cease-fire deal was struck, also a Line of Control (LOC) was marked. Pakistan gained control of a third of Kashmir, leaving India with about two-thirds of the territory. This was just one of many battles and wars between the countries over Kashmir.

By late 1948, the major fight involving Indian and Pakistani troops had taken place over Poonch, which the Pakistani Military eventually lost. The serious consequence of the war was, Pakistan could allow the battle to bleed over into the Punjabi border, all in order to challenge Indian successes in Kashmir. If it happens, conflict may erupt throughout the whole Indo-Pakistan border, with devastating implications for both countries. To avoid a catastrophe, the United Nations (UN) persuaded both sides to embrace a UN-sponsored peace settlement in 1948 (December) depending on the army deployments, when India had already submitted the issue of Kashmir in 1948 (January). India and Pakistan agreed to cease hostilities and tolerate the presence of UN military monitors in Kashmir until the issue was settled under this peace accord, which went into force on January 1, 1949. In January 1949, for the first time UN involved itself in the Kashmir conflict, but they were unable to break the political impasse between the two countries. In the absence of political settlement, both Pakistan and India attempted to incorporate their individual sections of Kashmir. POK (Pakistan Occupied Kashmir) was only a 3rd of the remaining land, and soon was divided into two areas, in 1950: the Northern Areas, which bordered the Soviet



Union and China, and Azad (Free) Kashmir, which remained. Both of these territories were afterwards temporarily incorporated into Pakistan's state.

Kashmir, which found inclusion in the Constitution of India as part of Article 370, was granted a "special privilege." Sheikh Abdullah's National Conference received a majority vote in the regional elections held in 1951 in weaving with Kashmir's inclusion to India. The Abdullah government's populist policies quickly offended Kashmir's large Hindu community, who began to doubt validity of Kashmir's "special status" given by India and sought Kashmir's complete and permanent merger with India. The growth of Hindutva became a major cause of contention between the Abdullah's administration and Indian government in Kashmir.

Abdullah was ultimately imprisoned in India in 1953. After Abdullah's dismissal, Bakshi Ghulam Mohammed seized charge of the National Conference and fought for stronger ties with India. In 1954, when Pakistan signed a defence pact with the USA, India believed it to be an act of aggression and declared Kashmir's admission to India. Thus, the 1949 Line of Cease-Fire (CFL) had become the default line of boundary between the two nations, dividing Kashmir. There were three primary areas in India: the Valley, Ladakh, and Jammu. The J & K Constituent Assembly accepted the state's union with India in 1956.

Indo-Pak Wars:

Nevertheless, the LOC's creation in 1948 proved inadequate. After that, the UN enacted as a peacemaker. A panel of five-member was to join India to advise Pakistan and India in restoring peace in the Valley. The panel was also meant to stimulate these nations in preparing for a mandate on Kashmir's ascension. To eliminate tensions, a below mentioned procedure was also put-forth:

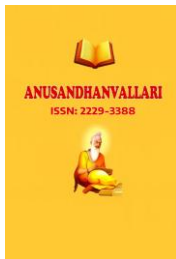
1. Pakistanis who had invaded Kashmir to combat were to be deported.
2. India was expected to progressively decrease its soldiers in the region.
3. Also, India was to establish a UN-nominated referendum administrator.

This agreement was approved by India. Pakistan, on the other hand, has refused it. As a result, no forces were withdrawn and no compromise was reached. The Dixon proposal, among other possibilities, was used to seek further international discussions. These, too, failed because the terms were always refused by either India or Pakistan.

The 2nd War:

When Pakistan's army assumed power in 1958, the then General Mohammed Ayub Khan (also the President and Chief of Martial Law Administration), chose to reassess Pakistan's military policy toward Kashmir for a variety of reasons. If Russia had backed India, Pakistan could hardly refer to the UN Council and ask to resolve the Kashmir feud. India appeared to be militarily weak after the 1962 Indo-China conflict. It's also possible that Ayub was angered by Nehru's dismissive response to his idea that when the Kashmir issue was settled, the two countries create an united Indo-Pak defence alliance. Ayub and his foreign minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, may have also believed that the 'window of opportunity' to resolve the Kashmir conflict in Pakistan's favour was fast approaching.

Pakistan studied India's armed forces in border clashes in West Gujarat's Rann of Kutch in January 1965, before challenging India in Kashmir with a massive military force. India demanded a quick armistice and took the case to the International Court of Justice to avoid a major fight. India's response was viewed by the Ayub government as a sign of weakness. Following the Rann of Kutch incident, Pakistan sparked religious turmoil in Kashmir, ostensibly over the theft of a valuable Muslim artefact, the Hazratbal, or the Prophet Mohammed's hair. The collapse of civil order in Kashmir was seen by Pakistan as a sign of contagious dissatisfaction with India. Pakistan devised Operation Gibraltar, a two-phase plan to occupy Kashmir by force, thinking that Indian military forces were weak and that there was widespread public opposition to India in Kashmir. Regular Pakistani troops



disguised as local tribespeople would cross the CFL and stir rebellion in Kashmir's border regions during the first stages of the operation. This would prepare the way for the second phase, in which Pakistan would invade and take Kashmir in India in a quick battle, then proclaim a cease-fire and petition the United Nations to settle the fate of Kashmir.

From the start, the idea was a disaster. When the invasion began, the local population, contrary to Pakistan's intentions, were unwilling and handed the infiltrators over to Indian security forces. In spite of this defeat, Pakistan launched an invasion on Kashmir in early September 1965. After repelling the initial onslaught, the Indian soldiers moved on the offensive in Kashmir, crossing the CFL.

The UN and the giants were alarmed by the situation and made every attempt to reach a speedy truce between the parties to the conflict. India and Pakistan were also subjected to a weapons embargo by the superpowers. Alexei Kosygin, the Soviet prime minister, ultimately convinced Indian Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri and Pakistani President Ayub Khan to meet in Tashkent in January 1966 to hash out a truce accord. Both India and Pakistan decided to withdraw their troops to the 1948--49 CFL and borders in the Punjab as part of this accord.

The 3rd Indo-Pak War:

Another battle erupted between India and Pakistan in 1971. This conflict did not originate in Kashmir. Rather, the Pakistani military's war on Bengali separatists in East Pakistan sparked the conflict by flooding India with migrants. As the Pakistani military's attack on East Pakistan became more intense, India's Indira Gandhi government determined that waging war on Pakistan on behalf of Bengali separatists would be less expensive than integrating the refugees who had fled to India. East Pakistan was unable to defend itself since it was isolated from the rest of the country by 1200 leagues of Indian control.

Recent Attempts to acquire Kashmir:

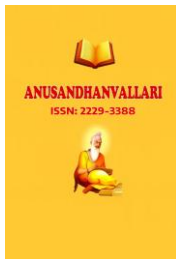
Regional conflicts over Kashmir sparked two of the three major Indo-Pakistani wars, in 1947 and 1965, as well as a brief conflict in 1999. Despite the fact that the cease-fire has been in effect since 2003, both countries continue to shoot over the Line of Control. Both sides accuse the other of violating the cease-fire, claiming they are retaliating for assaults. An upsurge in border hostilities that began in late 2016 and continued into 2018 killed scores of people and displaced thousands on both sides of the Line of Control.

In August 2019, the Indian government attempted to repeal Article 370 from the Indian constitution, removing Jammu and Kashmir's special status, while also mobilising tens of thousands of soldiers and paramilitary forces to the area. Kashmir, which is ruled by India, remains under siege, with phone and internet connections being cut down on a regular basis and tens of thousands of people being imprisoned.

At least forty troops were killed in an ambush on an Indian paramilitary convoy in Indian-controlled Kashmir in February 2019. The Pakistani terrorist group Jaish-e-Mohammad carried out the attack, which was the worst in Kashmir in three decades. India claimed two weeks later that it had struck a terrorist training camp in Pakistan with air strikes. Pakistan retaliated the next day with air strikes in Indian-controlled Kashmir. As the argument escalated into an aerial combat, Pakistan shot down two Indian military planes and arrested one Indian pilot, who was later released.

Possible solution for Kashmir Conflict:

The dispute between the two nations is rooted in Kashmir's strategic importance in terms of national security, geography, and resources. Kashmir is home to the Indus River, one of the world's most significant rivers. Pakistan's agriculture relies heavily on the Indus River. It is particularly crucial in the lower Indus valley, where rainfall is sparse. India is likewise overly reliant on the Indus for agriculture and irrigation. As a result, the Indus



and its tributaries are severely dehydrated. The country with the best control over this region will be able to shut off the other's water supply.

On September 19, 1960, the Indus Water Treaty was signed to ensure a fair distribution of water from this river. The Ravi, Sutlej, and Beas rivers' eastern tributaries are under Indian control, whereas the western rivers, the Jhelum and Chenab, would be in Pakistani control. Around 16 percent of the river's total water is received by India, while the remainder is retained by Pakistan. While the treaty is still in existence, Pakistan is afraid that if a disagreement arises, India, which controls the Kashmir area where the Indus ebbs, will block the reserve. However, it is essential to assume that India's water supply was not depleted during earlier conflicts. However, the possibility still remains in Pakistan's eyes, making Kashmir a prized property. The glaciers also provide the region with massive volumes of freshwater.

The rivers and bodies of water in Kashmir have the capacity to generate massive amounts of hydroelectricity. Jammu and Kashmir's power needs are primarily met by hydroelectric power. Kashmir generates just about 3000 megawatts of power at the time. The province, on the other hand, has the potential to induce 16,000 MW of electricity. The Indian government is striving on this, making Kashmir a strategic location. Uranium, natural gas, oil, and gold are few of the numerous reserves found in the region.

Kashmir is at a junction of three nuclear-armed nations: Pakistan, China, and India. India presently wields roughly 55 per cent of the actual territory of Kashmir, while Pakistan operates 30 per cent and China operates 15 per cent.

From Kashmir's point of view we can say, the Kashmiri people are exhausted of decades of strife and bloodshed, it is reasonable to say. On the one hand, rebel and terrorist organisations are constantly launching strikes. Military soldiers, on the other hand, have expanded their presence. These militaries have been accused of abusing human rights. All of the factions present in Kashmir want to put a stop to the incessant violence. More Kashmiris are coming out in favour of the referendum that was meant to happen during division. Furthermore, the number of individuals who favour a free Kashmir is growing.

Possible Solution to the Conflict:

India and Pakistan are both certain that Kashmir is rightfully theirs. Either side's allegations are tough to reject. Both nations consider Kashmir to be highly important. It's hard to imagine any country willingly giving up Kashmir. Many Kashmiris and military have definitely been victims of atrocities, which are still occurring. There have also been reports of human rights violations in the area. In both Pakistan and India, there is rising empathy for Kashmiris. At the moment, though, there appears to be little hope in this area.

India has recently received a lot of international support. For many people, India's fast economic and military growth has made it a desirable ally and trade partner. The amendment to Article 370 is an excellent example of this. The majority of countries supported India's decision. We can expect this international support to continue in the future. There is no foreign involvement in India to alter the terms of the Pakistan-India Kashmir accord. On the other side, Pakistan was the centre of attention. A number of nations have put pressure on Pakistan to stop sponsoring and financing terrorist organisations. Several countries have urged that Pakistan end its backing for terrorist operations and stop investing in terrorist organisations. In this case, Pakistan is unquestionably the target of international attention. There is little incentive for India to leave this fight. For India, Kashmir is incredibly valuable. It is made possible by future plans to channel hydroelectricity and the wealth of natural resources. Furthermore, with increasing nationalist and anti-Pakistan emotions in India, a majority of Indians do not want Kashmir to be lost.

Even though there is a call for freedom in Kashmir, it is uncertain if there is a majority of people who support it. Furthermore, there are concerns in the international community that a free Kashmir would not survive. Kashmir, if it became free, would be bordered by three nuclear-armed powers and terrorised by several other groups. One

of the three abilities would almost certainly be used. An autonomous Kashmir, according to experts, would swiftly collapse under disorder and violence. There are worries that such a country may devolve into another terrorist-ruled state. This is unlikely to happen, as both India and Pakistan are against it.

It is also doubtful that a contest will be held. It's understandable to think that a fair vote would be difficult to obtain. Furthermore, Kashmiri attitudes appeared to have shifted; before to the split, a substantial number of Kashmiris were pro-India. However, considering recent events and a rise in anti-India attitude among Kashmiris, it's difficult to determine which side the Kashmiris support. There is no reason for India to modify its stance on Kashmir. As a result, because a vote does not ensure their victory, they would have little motive to call one. India has stated that it does not desire any foreign engagement in this subject.

The misery of the Kashmiris, on the other hand, is now being heard more than ever. In both nations, there is a growing population that wants to put an end to the deaths and suffering that Kashmir has been known for. As the world tightens its anti-terrorist efforts, we can believe that Kashmir will be rid of terrorists one day. Kashmir is being closely monitored on a worldwide scale, and numerous groups are working to improve the situation. Some argue that the line of control should be made the formal boundary. While this is clearly more feasible than India or Pakistan renouncing Kashmir altogether, the chances are still slim. For the reasons stated, it's difficult to imagine this happening, owing to the lack of a mutually damaging standoff. Both countries are likely to stretch it out till they can no more do so. In any case, whilst the situation appears gloomy, there is still hope for a better tomorrow.

Conclusion:

Kashmir has been through hell over the past 70 years, with various efforts to seize the territory. Kashmiris either pray for independence or prepare to die on the streets. While the substantive conversation is encouraging, it is yet too early to consider a mutually acceptable settlement to the Kashmir conflict. In this context, it's crucial to remember that Kashmir is riven by numerous disputes involving diverse groups, making dispute settlement difficult. In Kashmir, there is a disagreement between India and Pakistan about which state has the right to occupy Kashmir, as well as a conflict between India and the Kashmiri people over the future of Kashmir's relationship with India; there is a disagreement between Pakistan and the people of Kashmir over the future of Kashmir's relationship with Pakistan, as well as a dispute between India and the people of Kashmir over the future of Kashmir's relationship with Pakistan.

Kashmir's conflict is not a simple one. With the way it is currently progressing and with both the countries refraining from backing down, the future seems bleak for Kashmir and Kashmiris.

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